

As a consumer I am concerned with the limitations that television networks wish to place on hdtv with respect to encrypting the signals and disallowing recording of them.

This will hurt the public interest in that disallowing such recordings to be made will prevent people from recording for short terms in order to view the programming at a later time when the viewer has the time. I am not talking about indefinite archiving of the broadcast but simply the ability of the viewer to watch the show the next day when they have the time to do so.

Right now viewers around the world record with devices such as Tivo and vcr's shows that they are unable to watch when they are on but would like to view when they are able to. I myself own a Tivo and record television shows so that I do not miss them. I do not do this to skip commercials or to record for long periods of time but instead do this in order to watch recordings when I am able to. I frequently work late, have to go out in the evenings, go to dinner, etc. What the television industry would do with encryption is to once again tie me to the television when I do not wish to be tied to it. This would destroy progress in our lives by chaining people back to the televisions where the networks wish people to be but consumers do not wish to be.

Allowing people to watch tv when they wish to has increased the quality of life and happiness of many people and taking this ability away would decrease quality of life and set us back by over 20 years since the vcr first became popular. This would not be an evolution of technology but a forced devolution upon the industry.

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